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NEW POTATO HARVESTER DEVELOPED -- Sozialistische Volkszeitung, No 97, 22 Nov 49

Czechoslovakia recently conducted tests on a new mechanical harvester for potatoes and sugar beets. When harvesting the latter, the machine stacks the beets in little piles; a special attachment removes the leaves.

The harvester has a daily capacity of 3 hectares, which equals the daily manual performance of 15 workers.

The machine is slated for mass production in the near future.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GETS RESEARCH LAW -- Rude Pravo, No 281, 30 Nov 49

The government has submitted to the National Assembly a proposal for a law on the organization of research and documentation service, which is to eliminate the decentralization of research and prepare for its reorganization in the future.

According to this proposal, the Center of Scientific Research in the State Planning Office will be the supreme organ of Czechoslovak research. The center will propose research plans, follow the activities of research institutes and care for their development, determine basic research projects, care for the practical utilization of the results of research, plan the training of research workers, grant awards in accordance with directives established by the government, manage the documentation service, and conduct liaison with foreign countries.

A chairman and his deputy will head the center, and a research council will serve as an advisory body to the chairman. Similar bodies will be established at the Slovak Planning Office. Central research institutes, in which research will be centralized and rationalized, are to be established to that projects in a single or several related research fields may be conducted. Both ministers and state, communal, and equivalent enterprises can establish research institutes after the necessary approval. Institutions of higher learning normally conducting research will be considered institutions of the ministries. The government determines which research establishment is subject to nationalization. The Ministry of Food will determine the time for the Association for Research in the Food Industry to be deactivated. The proposed law will not cover research institutions of the military administration.

CONDUCT RESEARCH IN ELECTRICITY -- Lidove Noviny, No 242, 15 Oct 49

The Czechoslovak Power Plants are devoting considerable attention to scientific research and have already achieved some success. Since 1 January 1949 three research institutions have been engaged in combining the former unsystematic and limited activity of several laboratories and testing centers. The first institute solves problems of production, transportation, storage, and measurement of electricity. The second is concerned with gases and solves problems of production and processing, local and long-distance distribution, and utilization of gases, and investigates the methods and uses of new gas products. The third develops and tests various articles used for electrical power, solves chemico-physical production problems, and plans and conducts chemical and physical measurements.

STALINOVY ZAVODY ANNOUNCE CONTEST -- Hospodar, No 41, 13 Oct 49

A series of secondary products, which cannot be processed into finished products at the present stage of development of the Czechoslovak chemical industry, are obtained in the course of coal processing. The Stalinovy Zavody, the largest processors of secondary types of brown coal in the Northern Bohemian brown coal basin, seek to interest the Czechoslovak Chemical Plants in processing these

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secondary products. Because the use of these products in industry demands research work, the Stalinovy Zavody are announcing a big contest and are calling upon not only all chemical specialists but also other workers in the chemical and related industries to cooperate in the research.

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